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August 8, 1968

Professor Luis Alvarez
Department of Physics
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Dear Dr. Alvarez:

You participated in the CBS NEWS INQUIRY, "The Warren Report", which was broadcast over that television network on June 25, 1967. You and Mr. Wyckoff indicated that three frames of the Zapruder film, numbers 190, 227, and 318, were blurred, thus pinpointing Zapruder's response to three shots he had heard.

Dr. Josiah Thompson of Haverford College, in his book, "Six Seconds in Dallas", devotes several pages (292-295) to "A Critique of the CBS News Documentary 'The Warren Report'", wherein he points out that frames 197, 210, and 331 were also blurred, but neither you nor Mr. Wyckoff nor the CBS commentators mentioned these frame numbers, which would, using the reasoning applied to frames 190, 227, and 318, indicate shots having been fired. I am interested in your reply to the criticism made by Dr. Thompson.

I also wonder whether there might not be a refractory period, during which a "startle-reaction" might not be elicited, if a stimulus, such as the sound of a rifle-shot, is repeated about a half second after the first stimulus. Thus, if Zapruder heard a second sound about half a second after the first sound (rifle-shot), he might not have registered with a slight tremble of his arm. It might be interesting to investigate the length of this refractory period in human subjects.

Welcoming your comments, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Walter Menaker

Walter Menaker, M.S., M.D., M.P.H.

P.S. When I was a student at the U. of Minnesota, I heard your Dad speak. I also used to dine at the men's dorm with several of the sons of your Dad's colleagues (Mann, Sanford, and Lemmon). I am personally on speaking and note-writing terms with Robert F. Loeb, brother of your older colleague at Berkeley, Leonard Loeb.

W.M.

Note: As I was typing your address on the envelope, it first came home to me that I had addressed you as "Professor Walter Menaker". I had crossed the name and typed in "Walter Menaker".